

Message Text

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EB-07 SCA-01 INR-07 DLOS-04 PRS-01 CG-00 DOTE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BELEM

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 157383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, BR

SUBJECT:US-BRAZIL SHRIMP AGREEMENT

REF: BRASILIA 4272

1. DEPT SEES LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO ACCEPT GOB REQUEST THAT
SHRIMPBOAT DATA ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPHS BE IN HANDS OF
GOB BEFORE 15 DAY WAITING PERIOD BEGINS FOR US BOATS
DESIRING TO ENTER FISHERY. IT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT
WE CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO ADD BOATS TO LIST BETWEEN
QUARTERS; THIS APPEARS TO BE ACCEPTABLE.

2. DEPT. HAS CONSIDERED, IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPT. COM-
MERCE, POSSIBILITY NOTED PREVIOUSLY BY EMBASSY OF
REDEFINING OR EXPANDING AGREEMENT AREA. PRESENT AGREEMENT
AREA WAS CAREFULLY CHOSEN TO AVOID COINCIDING WITH THE
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CLAIMED 200-MILE ZONE. MOREOVER, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT

EXPANSION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT SOME FURTHER COST TO US, E.G. IN TERMS OF INCREASED ENFORCEMENT FEE, FOR WHICH IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN SUPPORT OF INDUSTRY OR OF THE CONGRESS. ALSO, REPORTS FROM THE FISHERMEN INDICATE THAT CATCHES MAY BE IMPROVING IN AGREEMENT

AREA AND IF SO THIS SHOULD REDUCE NEED FOR VESSELS TO SEARCH FOR DIFFERENT AND BETTER FISHING GROUNDS OUTSIDE THE AGREEMENT AREA. IT IS ALSO WORTH NOTING THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE PRESENTLY EXISTS FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES A BUFFER AREA BETWEEN AGREEMENT AREA WHERE US VESSELS OPERATE AND GROUNDS WHERE BRAZILIAN FISHERMEN OPERATE SEVERAL HUNDRED MILES FURTHER SOUTH. WE SEE SOME ADVANTAGE IN KEEPING THIS SITUATION INTACT AS IT MAY SERVE TO HELP AVOID POSSIBLE FRICTION AND RESENTMENTS RESULTING FROM THE TWO FLEETS BEING IN CLOSE CONTACT. WE NOTE LATEST SIGHTING OUTSIDE AGREEMENT AREA, AND WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN BACKGROUND OF CAYENNE SARITA'S APPARENTLY RECURRING INTEREST IN THE ZONE IN QUESTION. IF INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE, WE BELIEVE SITUATION SHOULD BE REASSESSED BUT -- IN THE LIGHT OF CONSIDERATIONS ENUMERATED ABOVE WE HESITATE AT THIS TIME TO INITIATE MOVES FOR CHANGE IN AGREEMENT AREA.

3. ON RELATED QUESTION, DEPT. HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF JAPANESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN FISHING IN AGREEMENT AREA AND THAT THIS IS CAUSING SOME RESENTMENT IN US-FLEET, WHICH IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT JAPAN DOES NOT HAVE AGREEMENT WITH GOB. DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY EXPLORING IN INFORMAL; LOW-KEY MANNER WHETHER GOJ-GOB AGREEMENT EXISTS OR WHETHER THERE IS SOME JOINT-VENTURE OR PRIVATE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH JAPANESE BOATS MAY HAVE. (GOB INDICATED TO USDEL IN FEB THAT THERE WOULD BE NO GOJ-GOB SHRIMP AGREEMENT.) INGERSOLL

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